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NEWS LETTER

OF

BIRDWATCHER'S SOCIETY OF ANDHRA PRADESH

BIRDWATCHER'S SOCIETY OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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M A Y U R A

NEWSLETTER OF THE BIRDWATCHER'S SOCIETY OF ANDHRA PRADESH

VOLUMES 7 & 8 : 1986 & 1987 : Nos. 1 - 4

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EDITORS:- Aasheesh Pittie & P Balakoteshwar Rao

Articles to MAYURA may be sent to the Honorary Secretary, BSAP, 6-3-249/3,
Road No 1, Banjara Hills, HYDERABAD - 500 034 or to Aasheesh Pittie, 14-7-370
Begum Bazar, HYDERABAD - 500 012.

REPORT ON THE REDISCOVERY OF THE JERDON'S or
DOUBLEBANDED COURSER Cursorius BITORQUATUS BY THE
BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

Bharat Bhushan, C/o Bombay Natural History Society,
Hornbill House, Shahid Bhagat Singh Road,
BOMBAY - 400 023.

The Jerdon's or Doublebanded Courser Cursorius bitorquatus was first described in 1848. Closely related to the more common Indian Courser Cursorius coromandelicus, the Doublebanded Courser was thought to be frequenting "rocky hills with thin jungle", unlike the former which is found on open bare ground with almost no cover. The first specimen were procured by Dr T C Jerdon in c. 1848 "from the hilly country above the Eastern Ghats, off Nellore and in Cuddapah." Nearly twenty years after, Blanford collected two individuals at Bhadrachalam and Sironcha along the Godavari. Later, in 1900, Howard Campbell reported sighting the bird in the Pennar River Valley in the vicinity of Anantapur. THAT WAS THE LAST RECORD.

Being limited in geographical range, ie., Anantapur, Cuddapah and Nellore along the Pennar River and Sironcha and Bhadrachalam along the Godavari - the Jerdon's Courser was one of the most important avian species in Indian limits that should have been studied in detail. With its nearest cousins in Africa, and an extremely limited range, its paucity of records was leading to a gap in Indian Ornithology. Moreover, unless a thorough search was carried out, we would be losing a missing link in the complex zoogeographical history of the country.

Dr Salim Ali had, in 1932, during his Hyderabad Ornithological Survey, examined the areas in detail but was not able to spot the Doublebanded Courser. Later a Smithsonian Survey team had surveyed the Godavari River areas. Both these surveys seemed to have made the error of looking for the bird in habitats which were more suitable for the Indian Courser. The BNHS decided

to survey the Pennar River Valley areas in 1985 under the purview of their ongoing ENDANGERED SPECIES PROJECT. Bharat Bhushan, field biologist at the Society, was deputed to try to establish the bird's presence after the last record 85 years ago.

The survey was carried out in the Anantapur, Cuddapah and Nellore districts through which the Pennar River flows. Contacts were established mainly with local shikaris who subsisted purely on small birds like partridges and quail for food. Many shikaris correlated the offered description with the birds they knew. After gradual ticking off the wrong ones, three descriptions remained. One each from the three districts.

These three descriptions were similar to each other and to Jerdon's description of the bird. Checking up at the Society's library on the Jerdon's Coursers' congenetics, a leading biological character was pinpointed. This character, common to all the congenetics of the Jerdon's Courser, but absent in all other coursers, claimed the bird to be nocturnal.

Only one of the three shikaris whose descriptions tallied, claimed the bird to be nocturnal. That was because the shikari himself was a nocturnal chap. Going out by headlights in the night to search for small and big game, he claimed to have regularly seen the Courser feeding normally (during the night).

Deciding to try out his claim, the Society based a field station near the Lankamalai ranges of Cuddapah. Apart from his description, the area tallied with Jerdon's note of "hilly country above the Eastern Ghats, off Nellore and in Cuddapah". While some searches were made tentatively, in mid-January 1986, success came unexpectedly. Using his headlight, the shikari spotted the bird and found it being absolutely stationary. He walked upto it and was able to pick it off the ground before the bird could react.

On 14th morning, Bharat Bhushan was shown the bird. Recognising the Jerdon's Courser immediately, contact with Bombay was established and Dr Salim Ali was informed.

The 90 year old ornithologist, made an air dash to the spot via Tirupati but was too late. The bird died before he could see it in a live condition. However the dead bird has now been skinned and will be kept as a museum piece in the BNHS collection which houses c. 20,000 more skins of almost all Indian birds.

Received: 7-2-1986.

**OBSERVATIONS ON THE NESTING OF STREAKED FANTAIL WARBLER
CISTICOLA JUNCIDIS AT A GRASSLAND NEAR ALWAL - 1986.**

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500 015.

It was a breezy evening of 7th August 1986. We were making a checklist of birds at a grassland near Kompalli (Ranga Reddy District) - when one of us (PK), after much searching, located two nests of the Streaked Fantail Warbler Cisticola juncidis in the undergrowth, close to the ground. It was a delightful discovery for us and the culmination of a long search. In our excitement we lost the location of the nests and had to spend the rest of the evening in relocating them! This shows how well concealed the nests really are. After rediscovering them we marked the location by tying knots on grass stems nearby to prevent any further loss. Since that day we monitored, almost continuously, the nesting of these birds for a period of nearly two months. What follows is an account of nesting behaviour of these warblers.

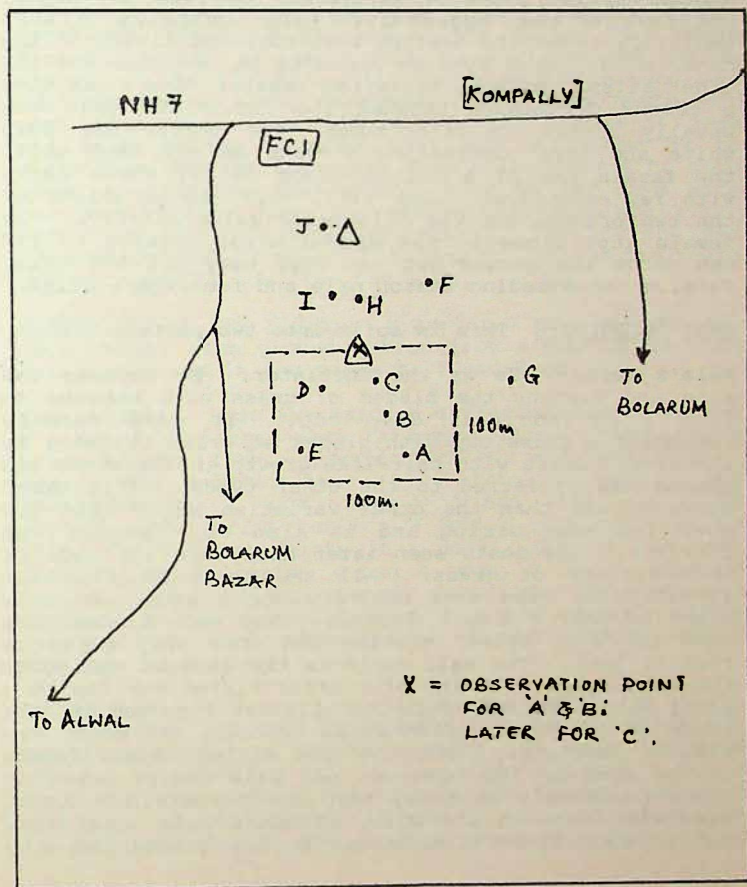
LOCATION AND HABITAT:- The grassland is 18km. north of Hyderabad on the Nagpur Highway at a place called

Kompalli. It is roughly a square kilometer of rolling grassland. There are many varieties of grass here among which the tallest grows to 150-160 cms. at the end of the season. This type predominates the vegetation and is annually cut for fodder after the monsoon ends in October. Other vegetation here includes some herbaceous plants, thorny and non-thorny bushes like ber and pallas. Very few trees like babool and palm are seen mostly on the fringes of the grassland and near cattle tracks. Scattered boulders with bushes growing around are seen mostly near the highway. A check-bund, though breached, controls and smoothen the flow of water down the slopes thus allowing the grass to sprout, thereby preventing soil erosion. Disturbance to the habitat is mainly from grazing cattle but this is at a minimum during late summer and early monsoons. Cattle tracks along the fringes carry heavy lorry traffic sometimes which however does not affect the birds found here. These tracks are the main channels of soil erosion by both wind and rain.

At the time we began our observations (August) the grass was young ie., 15-20 cms. tall, no migratory birds had come, partridges, quails and larks were regularly seen and heard and occasionally a koel(?) or a hawk flew by.

MODE OF OBSERVATION:- We selected a site near a rock from where the located nests were directly in front of us in a straight line. We called the nests A & B. B was nearer, about 20 meters from us, while A was further away. Most of our observations were of Nest B and Nest C, which was built later about 10 m. in front of us. We observed in all 10 nests in this area. With binoculars (10x50) we could not see the nests themselves because of the vegetation around but could see the entry and exit of the birds clearly. The distance chosen was adequate, as it did not elicit any alarm from the birds due to our presence. As far as possible, our observations were regular - either daily or every alternate day, but mostly in the evening

NEST LOCATIONS OF STREAKED FANTAIL WARBLER AT THE GRASSLAND NEAR ALWAL (KOMPALLY).



hours.

DISTINGUISHING MALE FROM FEMALE:- There were distinctly two types of warblers. One was the highly vociferous and aggressive type chipping almost endlessly above its nesting territory and diving at the other bird. This type we found to be the male and the other silent and submissive the female. There was also a colour difference between the two. The male was usually richer in colouration, the throat was pure white and very contrasting streaks on its back while the female was of a duller shade on all these parts with few exceptions. But still only the behaviour of the two brought out the difference quite clearly. The female kept close to the ground hardly rising to 180 cms above the ground but was very busy all the time. Outside the breeding season male and female are alike.

NEST BUILDING:- This is split into two parts.

Male's Part:- He is the initiator. He chooses the site and fastens the blades of grass with cobwebs to form a cylindrical, deep cup. It very closely resembles a glass cup with blades of grass sticking to its side. Grass with hair-like growth in the stems and blades are preferred to the other types. This grass grows slower than the other varieties which were not used for nest-making and is also more tender and flexible. The nests seen later here were all made of this variety of grass. All the nests that we saw (totally 10) here were sheltered by a bush, a thorny plant or near a rock. Further, they were hidden deep down and even after locating the spot they could be readily lost. The male collects the cobwebs and pulls the webs apart with its bill after fixing one end to a plant stem. Balled up in its bill the fine web is then taken to its nest. Even while building its nest, the male is constantly 'chipping' and diving at any female on the ground. We observed one male 'chip' about 25 times constantly on every trip out to obtain cobwebs. Even with webs in its bill, it would make some sound but at such times flew closer to the ground and more

directly to the nest. Mating is assumed to take place only after nest acceptance by the female.

Female's Part:- The female was observed to take over, 2-3 days after the nest was started by the male. Sometimes, mostly at the end of the season, the female does not accept, and many nests are left at the halfway stage. Nests 1 and 3 which were started around 24th September were never accepted. No fresh nests were seen after this day. Cobwebs, dried blades of grass and other matter for the nest are collected by the birds from distances ranging from a few meters to about 30-40 m. from the nest site. Four to six days after the female takes over, the nest stands complete with a very nice, soft, spongy egg chamber. By now the nest is inconspicuous and well hidden in the undergrowth. The entrance is now from the side.

DIMENSIONS OF THE NESTS:- Diameter 7 cm. Height 15.2 cm. Height from ground varied from 4 cm. to 17.5 cm. but mostly was in the range of 4 cm.-5 cm.

EGG LAYING:- Eggs are laid on different days. In nest B a total of 4 eggs were laid as follows. 14th August - saw 2 eggs, 15th - 2 eggs, 16th - 3 eggs and 17th - 4 eggs. For another nest (D) - total 4 eggs. 19th September saw 2 eggs, 20th - 3 and 21st - 4. The clutch size varied between 4 and 5 and once we saw three fully grown chicks in a nest. Out of ten nests that we could locate, 4 had 4 eggs, 3 had 5 eggs and one, a chick. Three were not accepted. Eggs are oval shaped, white speckled with red and brown. These speckles are more concentrated at the broader end in the form of a ring.

INCUBATION:- Incubation starts only after the clutch is complete. In all the nests that we observed only the female came to incubate while the male 'chipped' above. One evening (22 Aug) we observed Nest B for an hour and found that the incubation lasted about 34 minutes. On 27th August it was 16 min. out of 48 min. i.e., 20 min. for an hour. Both times the observations

were made at the same hour in the evening. This does show a decrease in incubating time with increase in incubation days but it needs further confirmation from other nests. Incubation by the bird is done ranging from just a few minutes to more than 35 minutes. During mid-day it was generally longer and so also the lay-offs. Rain, wind, etc., usually saw the bird in the nest, but this was not so every time. Incubation period as determined from Nest B and D was around 12 to 13 days.

HATCHING:- There is some doubt as to whether all eggs are hatched at the same time or not. This is because we saw chicks varying in size in a clutch but never saw any unhatched egg with the chicks except at one nest where the eggs did not hatch at all. (The development chart of chicks from hatching till leaving the nest is given as Appendix I). The nestlings leave the nest on the 13th or 14th day after hatching. What provokes them to fly off we do not know? Once, one of us was trying to count the number of nestlings in a nest (F). After counting we moved away a bit and soon saw three young birds fly out in different directions from the nest. The young flew quite well and in a straight line and landed 15-20 m. from the nest. The mother came later with food but having found her children missing, started to warble, hovering above the nest. She went back to the nest again and again and then left. After a few minutes she returned with food and this time one of the young ones was seen moving towards her. Later all three were found and a happy reunion took place. The male also showed much interest and helped to some extent in the search. He remained near the nest till all the fledglings were united.

FEEDING:- Nearly all the feeding was done by the female alone. After hatching, during the first two days, the food brought was miniscule, mostly a mass of black ants. Later we could be certain on this food item by inspecting the foraging ground from where these were obtained by the adult. It was full of small black ants. Larger food like caterpillars and small

grasshoppers were brought after two or three days. Some of these, like grasshoppers, were brought by holding them along the beak instead of across it. The bird could get its food mostly from within a radius of 50-60 m. from the nest and was found preferring to frequent a locality for a long time.

The feeding frequency remained more or less constant throughout, but showed marked variations at times. The frequency was on an average around 10 trips per hour. But at times it varied from a high of 18 to a low of 7! Sometimes, feeding was done in bursts by the same bird. It made 4 to 5 trips in a short span of 15 minutes and later did not attend for another 15 minutes or so. This way the adult had much time to feed itself and venture further away.

The size of food increased as the chicks grew. It was still mostly caterpillars and grasshoppers, but these were now bigger. There were many colourful caterpillars clinging to grass blades and stems among which the hairy black ones were the most conspicuous; these were not at all touched. Morning was the most active time for the birds to feed but when the chicks were about to leave the nest, even evenings were fully utilised. Just before the young left their nest, (Nest C), the adult used to frequent regularly with food with a gap of 2 or 3 minutes even in the late evenings. Otherwise activity ceased shortly after sunset.

As the chicks grew, the adult bird spent more and more time in the nest while feeding. It used to spend about half a minute in the beginning and in the end it even went upto 5 minutes. Could this be because the adult wanted to feed the less dominant chicks hidden inside the nest? All the chicks were equally healthy and capable of flight on leaving the nest which clearly shows that all were well nurtured.

NEST SANITATION:- About 2 or 3 days after hatching the adult bird was often seen carrying white droppings from the nest. These were dropped 30-40 m. from the nest,

sometimes nearer. Droppings were always carried by the adult after feeding the chicks. For one of the nests we estimated that nearly half of the returns were with droppings. The rate at which the droppings were carried from the nest increased initially but later stabilized around 4 to 5 trips per hour. Their size ofcourse increased. There never was any trace of smell or dropping anywhere near the nest.

POST-NEST FEEDING:- Feeding outside the nest could be seen for a few days after the yong left the nest. In two instances - Nest F and Nest B - this feeding continued only for about a day or two after leaving the nest. It was difficult to keep track of this because the fledglings moved to denser vegetation and only the constant hovering and calling of the adult showed signs of the young birds. The adult in this case was again the female, but the male also was warbling near by.

CONCLUSIONS

Nesting Season:- It lasts from late July to late September, though chicks are still at nest even in the 1st week of October. The adults in numbers come to this grassland much earlier in June itself but the grass then is just growing and is too short for nesting. Again in October, it becomes hard and less flexible.

During a season more than one brood is raised. Every time the male has to build a new nest and woo a female. The male also has to do guarding activities like giving warnings of danger, etc. This becomes all the more important as the busy female, down in the nest, is attentive mostly towards its chores, but responds immediately to any warning from the male. Its immediate response is to leave the vicinity of the nest or become very still in the undergrowth. The male itself is in danger. Once a Kestrel Falco tinnunculus was able to chase a 'chipping' male till it was exhausted and fell away.

Infertile eggs and abandoned nests become frequent in late September. Two nests (I & J) were not accepted. Nest H had three unhatched eggs till the end. Out of the ten nests that we located the closest distance between any two was 4.2 m (H & I). In a restricted patch of approximately 100 m. X 100 m., we counted 5 nests at different times in the season. In late September, three were found. These five probably had only two males between them.

Out of 10 nests that we could locate and monitor, only 7 were successful. Total eggs laid were 34 and total hatched, 27. Therefore hatching success was c. 80%.

APPENDIX

Approximated Chick Development Chart

Observations from Nest H, containing 2 chicks and 3 unhatched eggs.

Day	Development
1 - 2	Small rosy and blind. Gape at any disturbance to the nest. Two black dots on lower gape. Bluish colour over eyes and very feeble sound (just audible). Feather sheaths start appearing on the leading wing edges. Grey colour above the eyes diffusing into head. Seaths visible along mid back also, lump in the tail region visible.
5 - 6	Eyes opened - feather sheaths not opened but have grown well on wings - head getting grayer - still gape.
7 - 8	Feathers out of sheath on fore wings. Do not gape on disturbance to nest. Female still seems to brood.
9 - 10	Eyes wide open and blackish. Max. nest temperature 38.5 C. at 6.15 p.m.
10-11	Much feathered head brown in colour, back covered with soft feathers. Have become very noisy when disturbed. Utter a shrill call which is very loud when near. Completely fit in the nest with the

more dominant one perching on the top. Have bluish grey hair on forehead. Max. nest temperature 40 C. at 3.20 p.m. and 39.3 C. at 6.07 p.m. Last few Fully feathered. Bluish grey hairs decreasing. days. Leave the nest on 13th or 14th day. Brooding 12-13 by the adult bird lasted for the first 7/8 days.

NOTE: Temperature obtained with clinical thermometers inserted in the centre and around inside the nest. Only the maximum temperatures obtained are given. Outside air temperature was considerably lower than the nest temperature.

Received: 24-8-1987.

A REPORT ON THE FIRST FIELD CAMP OF THE BSAP, HELD AT NARSAPUR RESERVE FOREST, MEDAK DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH

Sushil Kapadia, 6-3-660 Kapadia Lane, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500 482.

The first ever camp to be organised by the Birdwatcher's Society of Andhra Pradesh, was decided to be held on 28th, 29th and 30th November 1986 at Narsapur Reserve Forest. We decided to limit the number of participants. The members who took part in the outing were Rajeev Mathew, M. S. Kulkarni, Siraj Taher, Bobby Kovur, Suhail Quader, Humayun Taher, Mrs. Gool Plumber, J.V.D. Murthy, B.C. Choudhury and the author.

We left in the afternoon by an R.T.C. bus. Narsapur is a village about 60 km. from Hyderabad, on the Medak road. We planned to book the P.W.D. rest house, but due to an N.G.O. strike, we could not do it. Dr. Devyani Dangoria, who runs a hospital there, came to our rescue. She let us use her cottage. We packed our provisions, clothes, binoculars and other equipment, including mist nets (provided by the A.P. forest department).

It was late in the evening and the sun had already disappeared before we reached Narsapur. We hired a rickshaw for our luggage. We had coffee at one of the small hotels and then resumed our journey towards the hospital.

The Dongaria Hospital is about a kilometer away from the village. It is situated on a hill slope and the cottage we were to stay in is on the shoulder of the hill overlooking the low-lying areas around it. To our surprise and delight, the cottage was fully equipped - television, refrigerator, dining tables, utensils, beds, etc. We dumped our luggage and walked back to the village for dinner. We decided to have it at an udipi hotel. We filled ourselves to the brim, except Murthy. Since it was an unlimited thali which we had ordered, he continued eating. We could see the colour of the proprietor's face changing. We warned Murthy, who luckily responded. On our way back we could feel the excitement in the air. A bit of star gazing and a whole lot of jokes brought us to the cottage, without noticing the distance. We planned for the next day's outing and then went to sleep.

Next day we left the cottage at 5.45 a.m. The winds were in a bad mood and we could sense that from their force and coldness. We could see the daylight increasing and soon the sun peeping at us from beyond the horizon. We wished it and were happy to have it back with us. It's warmth brought comfort to our otherwise stiff bodies.

About 3 km. from the cottage we turned off the road and walked beside a stream. Lack of rains had dried it up, except for a few puddles here and there. By the time we managed to disentangle the mist nets, the sun was high up in the sky. We decided to pack up the nets, since they would be of no use now. After folding them back we got down to birdwatching. We settled down in a clearing.

Around 9 a.m. we could hear our stomachs grumble, so we

decided to return to our base. On our way back we stopped at the lake and watched the birds on the shore and in the water.

On returning to our cottage, we found Mr. D.L.N. Rau and Mr. O.C. Edwards waiting for us. Mr. Edwards had graciously accepted our invitation to come for lunch and give us a talk on bird photography.

He told us the various ways of approaching various birds and also the behaviour of different birds towards man. He warned us about one thing and that is not to disturb the bird in any manner, as birds tend to abandon their nests.

We rested for some time, had our tea around 3.30 p.m. and then proceeded towards a spot in the forest. It was on the side of the path leading to the villages inside.

Around 6.00 p.m. when the sun was saying goodbye, we spotted a Crested Serpent Eagle. Everybody watched it with great interest as that bird was seen by most of us for the first time.

Suddenly, everybody stiffened. What was that sound? A roar? But then there was no repetition. Some of them wanted to return immediately to the base, and we started back.

After dinner, we had a slide show by Mr. B.C. Choudhury on 'Marshes of the World'. After that, Bobby Kovur showed his slides collected over the years. Unfortunately some of his slides had gathered fungus. We had a jolly good time telling each other of our past experiences and before we realised it was well past midnight. We went to sleep and I bet most of us dreamt about the forest.

Next morning we decided to split into 2 groups - one to cover the hills and the other to cover the river.

I was in the group covering the hills. We covered one or two hills. Prashant was a little ahead of us and was on the other side of the hill. He was lucky to spot a peafowl. After a few more hills we reached the stream. We moved upstream and found fresh pugmarks of a panther and also droppings of a chowsinga. After some time the other group joined us and we started going back. On our way we spotted a Yellowthroated Sparrow Petronia xanthocollis, which disappeared into a bush.

We got a message on reaching the cottage that Mr. Pushp Kumar (the Society's President and the Additional C.C.F., A.P. F.D.) had already reached Narsapur and was waiting for us at the P.W.D. rest house.

He was on a tour and was generous to drop in. We all gathered at the forest bungalow and the forest officials present there gave us a detailed account of their work and the problems they face. We also discussed our 'finds' with them.

After the discussion, we got into four jeeps and went into the forest. The forest officers showed us various kinds of flora and fauna.

According to forestry management practices, the total area of the forest is divided by the average number of the years for the trees to come up to their full size. Then each area is felled and trees are replanted there. Every year a new part is felled. By the time they return to the first part, the trees are grown up fully.

We returned to the rest house and had lunch hosted by the forest department. After having the delicious lunch, we made a list of birds seen during the last two days.

Soon a part of the group left with B.C. Choudhury in his Rover for Hyderabad and the rest of us got into a bus. We reached Hyderabad at 7 p.m.

The camp was a very exciting one and we learnt a lot from it. Everybody enjoyed it thoroughly. At our next indoor meeting we could see that the rest of the club members who did not join us were changing colour. They were turning green with envy!

A SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS SEEN IN THE NARSAPUR RESERVE FOREST, MEDAK DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH.

1	LITTLE GREBE	<i>Podiceps ruficollis</i>
2	LITTLE CORMORANT	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>
3	GREY HERON	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
4	PURPLE HERON	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
5	POND HERON	<i>Ardeola grayii</i> *
6	CATTLE EGRET	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i> *
7	LARGE EGRET	<i>Ardea alba</i>
8	LITTLE EGRET	<i>Egretta garzetta</i> *
9	MEDIAN EGRET	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
10	OPENBILLED STORK	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i> *
11	COMMON TEAL	<i>Anas crecca</i>
12	GADWAL	<i>Anas strepera</i>
13	GARGANEY	<i>Anas querquedula</i> *
14	SPOTBILLED DUCK	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>
15	COTTON TEAL	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
16	BLACKWINGED KITE	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i> *
17	CRESTED HONEY BUZZARD	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
18	PARIAH KITE	<i>Milvus migrans govinda</i> *
19	BRAHMINY KITE	<i>Haliastur indus</i> *
20	SHIKRA	<i>Accipiter badius</i> *
21	LONGLEGGED BUZZARD	<i>Buteo rufinus</i> *
22	CRESTED HAWK-EAGLE	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i> *
23	BONELLI'S EAGLE	<i>Hieraetaetus fasciatus</i> *
24	TAWNY EAGLE	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
25	LESSER SPOTTED EAGLE	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>
26	GREATER SPOTTED EAGLE	<i>Aquila clanga</i>
27	Longbilled Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i> *
28	WHITEBACKED VULTURE	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i> *
29	EGYPTIAN VULTURE	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i> *
30	MARSH HARRIER	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i> *
31	PALE HARRIER	<i>Circus macrourus</i>
32	MONTAGU'S HARRIER	<i>Circus pygargus</i>

33	SHORT-TOED EAGLE	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
34	CRESTED SERPENT EAGLE	<i>Spilornis cheela</i> *
35	GREY PARTRIDGE	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i> *
36	JUNGLE BUSH QUAIL	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>
37	COMMON PEAFOWL	<i>Pavo cristatus</i> *
38	COOT	<i>Fulica atra</i>
39	PHEASANT-TAILED JACANA	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>
40	REDWATTLED LAPWING	<i>Vanellus indicus</i> *
41	YELLOW-WATTLED LAPWING	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i> *
42	LITTLE RINGED PLOVER	<i>Charadrius dubius</i> *
43	KENTISH PLOVER	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> *
44	BLACKWINGED STILT	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
45	GREEN SANDPIPER	<i>Tringa ochropus</i> *
46	WOOD SANDPIPER	<i>Tringa glareola</i> *
47	COMMON SANDPIPER	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>
48	GULLBILLED TERN	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> *
49	BLUE ROCK PIGEON	<i>Columba livia</i> *
50	RING DOVE	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
51	SPOTTED DOVE	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i> *
52	LITTLE BROWN DOVE	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i> *
53	ROSERINGED PARAKEET	<i>Psittacula krameri</i> *
54	BLOSSOMHEADED PARAKEET	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i> *
55	PIED CRESTED CUCKOO	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
56	COMMON HAWK CUCKOO	<i>Cuculus varius</i>
57	INDIAN CUCKOO	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>
58	CUCKOO	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
59	PLAINTIVE CUCKOO	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>
60	KOEL	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>
61	CROW PHEASANT	<i>Centropus sinensis</i> *
62	SPOTTED OWLET	<i>Athene brama</i>
63	GREAT HORNED OWL	<i>Bubo bubo</i>
64	BROWN FISH OWL	<i>Bubo zeylonensis</i>
65	COMMON NIGHTJAR	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>
66	FRANKLIN'S NIGHTJAR	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i> *
67	HOUSE SWIFT	<i>Apus affinis</i> *
68	PALM SWIFT	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i> *
69	CRESTED TREE SWIFT	<i>Hemiprocne longipennis</i>
70	PIED KINGFISHER	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
71	SMALL BLUE KINGFISHER	<i>Alcedo atthis</i> *
72	WHITEBREASTED KINGFISHER	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> *
73	SMALL GREEN BEE-EATER	<i>Merops orientalis</i> *
74	INDIAN ROLLER	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i> *

75	HOOPOE	Upupa epops*
76	GREY HORNBILL	Tockus birostris*
77	CRIMSONBREASTED BARBET	Megalaima haemacephala*
78	GOLDENBACKED WOODPECKER	Dinopium benghalense*
79	BLACKBACKED WOODPECKER	Chrysocolaptes festivus
80	MAHRATTA WOODPECKER	Picoides mahrattensis
81	PYGMY WOODPECKER	Picoides nanus
82	REDWINGED BUSHLARK	Miraфра erythroptera*
83	ASHYCROWNED FINCH-LARK	Eremopterix grisea*
84	SHORT-TOED LARK	Calandrella cinerea
85	REDRUMPED SWALLOW	Hirundo daurica*
86	WIRETAILED SWALLOW	Hirundo smithii*
87	COMMON SWALLOW	Hirundo rustica*
88	GREY SHRIKE	Lanius excubitor
89	BAYBACKED SHRIKE	Lanius vittatus*
90	RUFOUSBACKED SHRIKE	Lanius schach*
91	GOLDEN ORIOLE	Oriolus oriolus*
92	BLACK DRONGO	Dicrurus adsimilis
93	WHITEBELLIED DRONGO	Dicrurus caerulescens*
94	ASHY SWALLOW-SHRIKE	Artamus fuscus
95	BRAHMINY MYNA	Sturnus pagodarum*
96	COMMON MYNA	Acridotheres tristis*
97	TREE PIE	Dendrocitta vagabunda*
98	HOUSE CROW	Corvus splendens*
99	JUNGLE CROW	Corvus macrorhynchos*
100	COMMON WOOD SHRIKE	Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
101	LARGE CUCKOO-SHRIKE	Coracina novaehollandiae
102	BLACKHEADED CUCKOO-SHRIKE	Coracina melanoptera
103	LITTLE MINIVET	Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*
104	IORA	Aegithina tiphia*
105	REDVENTED BULBUL	Pycnonotus cafer*
106	WHITEBROWED BULBUL	Pycnonotus luteolus
107	LARGE GREY BABBLER	Turdoides malcolmi*
108	JUNGLE BABBLER	Turdoides striatus
109	WHITEHEADED BABBLER	Turdoides affinis*
110	BROWN FLYCATCHER	Muscicapa latirostris
111	BLACKNAPED BLUE FLYCATCHER	Monarcha azurea
112	REDBREASTED FLYCATCHER	Muscicapa parva*
113	LITTLE PIED FLYCATCHER	Muscicapa westermanni
114	TICKELL'S BLUE FLYCATCHER	Muscicapa tickelliae
115	VERDITER FLYCATCHER	Muscicapa thalassina
116	WHITEBROWED FANTAIL FLYCATCHER	Rhipidura aureola*

117	FRANKLIN'S WREN-WARBLER	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
118	INDIAN WREN-WARBLER	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
119	ASHY WREN-WARBLER	<i>Prinia socialis</i> *
120	JUNGLE WREN-WARBLER	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>
121	TAILOR BIRD	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i> *
122	BLYTH'S REED WARBLER	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i> *
123	LESSER WHITETHROAT	<i>Sylvia curruca</i> *
124	BOOTED TREE WARBLER	<i>Hippolais caligata</i> *
125	OLIVACEOUS LEAF WARBLER	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>
126	LARGEBILLED LEAF WARBLER	<i>P. magnirostris</i>
127	MAGPIE-ROBIN	<i>Copsychus saularis</i> *
-128	BLACK REDSTART	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> *
129	PIED BUSHCHAT	<i>Saxicola caprata</i> *
130	INDIAN ROBIN	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i> *
131	WHITETHROATED GROUND THRUSH	<i>Zoothera c. cyanotus</i> *
132	GREY TIT	<i>Parus major</i> *
133	HODGSON'S TREE PIPIT	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>
134	TREE PIPIT	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
135	GREY WAGTAIL	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> *
136	WHITE WAGTAIL	<i>Motacilla alba</i> *
137	LARGE PIED WAGTAIL	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i> *
138	TICKELL'S FLOWERPECKER	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i> *
139	PURPLERUMPED SUNBIRD	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i> *
140	PURPLE SUNBIRD	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i> *
141	WHITE-EYE	<i>Zosterops palpebrosa</i> *
142	HOUSE SPARROW	<i>Passer domesticus</i> *
143	YELLOWTHROATED SPARROW	<i>Passer xanthocollis</i> *
144	BAYA	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i> *
145	WHITETHROATED MUNIA	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>
146	SPOTTED MUNIA	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i> *
147	RED MUNIA	<i>Estrilda amandava</i>
148	BLACKHEADED MUNIA	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>

* = birds seen during our camp on 29th and 30th Nov 1986.

**THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD ARDEOTIS NIGRICEPS IN ANDHRA
PRADESH**

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In the olden days, the Great Indian Bustard Ardeotis nigriceps was widely distributed in India in open sparse grass and scrub plains. Wet grasslands of the Himalayan terai and northwest India, and also hilly and forested areas were never liked by the bustard. In the south, the Deccan tableland comprising parts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra were its stronghold. In the former Nizam state, the bird was known as 'Tuqdar' and was commonly hunted for food. Cuddapah, Kurnook, Mehboobnagar, Anantapur and Hyderabad districts were the main bustard areas in Andhra Pradesh.

Savage shooting, expansion of agriculture and destruction of habitat by overgrazing accelerated the downfall of the Great Indian Bustard. About a metre in height, the bustard was always a popular game bird. Even falconry was practiced on it, much like the present-day sheikhs of gulf countries do on the Houbara Bustard. However, the Great Indian Bustard is too big for a falcon so even trained falcons were rarely successful in killing an adult bustard. Once when a falconer was successful, the Nawab of Banganapalle in Kurnool district, a great patron of falconry, conferred free tenure of a village on the falconer who achieved the feat.

As the bustard lives in wide open areas, where its defence is to see the enemy first, it is extremely wary and thus difficult to approach within shooting distance. However, it is naively unconcerned with vehicles and can be easily approached to within five to ten metres. Real trouble for the poor bustard started with the advent of jeep during the Second World War. The vehicle was designed for rough terrain and jungle

warfare, therefore, traversing the grasslands in a jeep was not difficult. Cessation of hostilities did not give the bird any respite. The disposal of war surpluses placed both the jeeps and improved weapons in the hands of unscrupulous hunters. Independence and popular democracy brought proliferation of so-called crop protection guns. Within a decade from 1945 onwards, the bustard was wiped out from the greater parts of the country. Protests by conservationists and bird lovers went unheeded as criminal poachers killed on bustard after another. Bustard shooting was totally banned in 1952 but till now, to our knowledge, not even a single hunter has been prosecuted for killing this rare bird.

In 1980 when an international seminar was organised in Jaipur on the Great Indian Bustard, Mr Pushp Kumar, the then Conservator of Forests (Wildlife Management), estimated a population of 15 bustards in the whole of Andhra Pradesh. He based his conclusion on the data supplied to him by his staff. Fortunately within two years, it was proved that the population was underestimated. Through the diligent searches and enquiries of Mr Pushp Kumar, eleven bustards were located near Rollapadu village in Nandikotkur Taluka of Kurnool District. At the same time, two birds were seen in Banganapalle area where the Nawab used to kill bustards in the olden days. Mr Pushp Kumar told us about this 'discovery' and in 1983, we made a joint trip to Rollapadu and saw 12 adult bustards. Soon a management plan for the protection of this endangered bird was prepared by the forest department and within no time, the grasslands of Rollapadu were given adequate protection to allow undisturbed breeding to the bustard.

18th July 1984 was a memorable day for us. We counted 35 bustards in Rollapadu. The next day we rushed to Hyderabad and broke the good news to Mr Pushp Kumar and to the members of the BSAP. At the first opportunity Mr Pushp Kumar went to Rollapadu, and he added three more birds to our count. It was the largest bustard

flock seen anywhere in recent years. After Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh found a prominent place on the bustard map.

Rollapadu is situated 18 km. from Nandikotkur town towards Nandyal. It contains one of the best natural grasslands of the state. This undulating savannah-type grassland, interspersed with few crop fields, extends between 50 to 60 sq. km. all around the village. The terrain is slightly rocky and generally unfit for cultivation. The A. P. forest department has established a bustard breeding plot in a 600 acre grassland enclosure. This adjoins a 20 acre plot of the Veterinary Department which was also transferred to the Forest Department. There is a plan to acquire another 300 acres for two more enclosures.

With the excellent protection provided by the forest department under the guidance of Mr Pushp Kumar and Mr Jaganmohan Rao, Director, Srisaillam Tiger Project, Rollapadu is becoming one of the finest bustard sanctuaries of the country. We estimate that not less than 60 bustards are present in the area. And 100 to 200 for the whole state.

In addition to the bustard, the highly endangered Lesser Florican Sypheotides indica is sometimes seen in the Rollapadu area. Among mammals, nearly 30 Blackbuck Antelope cervicapra have found a safe home in the grasslands of Rollapadu and thanks to protection, their population is increasing. Another highly endangered animal is the Wolf Canis lupus. If one is lucky, the elusive wolf can be seen around Rollapadu. In 1986, a pair denned inside the plot and raised a few pups.

In 1985, on the invitation of the A. P. Forest Department, we established a field station in Rollapadu to study the bustard in detail like we had done in the Karera Bustard Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh and in Nanaj in Maharashtra. Staying in Rollapadu gave us a base to survey other areas in Andhra Pradesh and within a year, we saw bustards in three more places and collected

information from four more areas. Thus, the Great Indian Bustard is definitely present in eight areas in Andhra Pradesh. (Names of the areas are not given this article for the safety of the bustards).

Our studies at Rollapadu are continuing and we hope to stay for one more year. We have a plan to thoroughly survey all the important bustard areas in Andhra Pradesh during the monsoon of 1987. As it is not physically possible for us to be present in all the areas during the early monsoon, when the bustards congregate in their breeding grounds, we need the help of members of the BSAP in collecting information. We request the birdwatchers not to disclose the bustard areas to everyone as the region is full of criminal hunters. All the information should be sent to the A. P. forest department or to us directly.

**RECORDINGS OF FIRST AND LAST SIGHTINGS OF ANNUAL
(WINTER) MIGRANTS IN AND AROUND HYDERABAD FOR THE
SEASONS OF 1983-84: 1984-85: 1985-86**

Aasheesh Pittie, 14-7-370 Begum Bazar, HYDERABAD-500012.

An earlier note (Pittie 1983; 1984) serialised in MAYURA, covered the seasons of 1980-81: 1981-82: 1982-83. That note contained dates from the author's own records and so were restricted to his movements only. In that note, 38 species of migratory birds were covered.

The present 'list' is a compilation from the notes of Mr Siraj A Taher, Mr T Ganesh and the author. This has helped cover more habitats at different times - though none of us worked consciously for this compilation. As in the earlier note, most of the observations were made within a study area of approximately 70 km. radius around Hyderabad city. This present note is for the seasons of 1983-84: 1984-85: 1985-86 and covers 62 species of birds from 15 families (see addenda).

The table which follows, comprises of 4 columns - the first being the serial numbers, the second containing the english name of a species and below it the scientific name. The third has the first date (in line with the english name) and the last date (in line with the scientific name) beneath it. The fourth column contains the names of places around Hyderabad where the species was seen on the relevant date mentioned in the previous (3rd) column.

In the table, an asterisk (*) before the serial numbers denotes a 'new' species not mentioned in the earlier note (Pittie, 1983; 84). An asterisk (*) after the english name of a bird denotes a note in the Explanation which follows the table. An asterisk (*) after either first or last dates refers to the Explanation, since that date falls within the parameters set by the earlier note.

The author would like to thank Mr Siraj Taher and Mr T Ganesh for their kind cooperation.

No.	SPECIES	DATE	PLACE
1	Brahminy Duck <u>Tadorna ferruginea</u>	27-11-83* 22-04-86	Patancheru Fox Sagar
2	Pintail <u>Anas acuta</u>	04-11-84 21-04-85	Rourial Fox Sagar
3	Common Teal <u>Anas crecca</u>	28-10-84 10-03-85	Rourial Fox Sagar
4	Gadwal <u>Anas strepera</u>	11-11-84* 03-02-85*	Narsapur Patancheru
5	Wigeon <u>Anas penelope</u>	18-12-83* 10-03-85	Manjira Fox Sagar
6	Garganey <u>Anas querquedula</u>	28-10-84 19-04-86*	Rourial Fox Sagar
*7	Shoveller <u>Anas clypeata</u>	12-01-86 30-03-86	Patancheru Fox Sagar
*8	Redcrested Pochard <u>Netta rufina</u>	18-12-83 10-03-85	Manjira Fox Sagar
9	Common Pochard	14-10-84	Shamirpet

	<u>Aythya ferina</u>	10-03-85	Fox Sagar
10	Tufted Duck	05-02-84*	Ibrahimpattanam
	<u>Aythya fuligula</u>	13-04-86	Hussain Sagar
11	Blackeared Kite	14-10-84	Shamirpet
	<u>Milvus migrans lineatus</u>	08-05-84	Nehru Zoo
*12	Greater Spotted Eagle	20-10-85	Fox Sagar
	<u>Aquila clanga</u>	16-12-84	Patancheru
13	Pale Harrier	30-09-84	RajendraNagar
	<u>Circus macrourus</u>	04-04-84	Shamirpet
14	Montagu's Harrier	14-10-84	Shamirpet
	<u>Circus pygargus</u>	15-04-84	Himayat Sagar
*15	Pied Harrier *	09-12-84	Patancheru
	<u>Circus melanoleucos</u>	-	-
16	Marsh Harrier	30-09-84	Nehru Zoo
	<u>Circus aeruginosus</u>	15-04-84	Himayat Sagar
*17	Osprey	21-10-85	Shamirpet
	<u>Pandion haliaetus</u>	12-01-86	Patancheru
*18	Peregrine Falcon	13-10-85	Shamirpet
	<u>Falco peregrinus</u>	14-03-86	Fox Sagar
19	Kestrel	28-10-84*	Rourial
	<u>Falco tinnunculus</u>	13-04-86	SanjivayyaPark
*20	Grey Plover	20-11-85	Inkriyal
	<u>Pluvialis squatarola</u>	19-01-86	Patancheru
*21	Kentish Plover	27-10-85	Fox Sagar
	<u>Charadrius alexandrinus</u>	10-03-85	Fox Sagar
*22	Curlew	20-10-85	Fox Sagar
	<u>Numenius arquata</u>	09-02-86	Himayat Sagar
23	Blacktailed Godwit	12-01-86*	Patancheru
	<u>Limosa limosa</u>	23-02-86	Manjira
24	Common Redshank	09-12-84*	Patancheru
	<u>Tringa totanus</u>	23-02-86	Manjira
25	Marsh Sandpiper	27-10-85	Fox Sagar
	<u>Tringa stagnatilis</u>	14-04-85	Himayat Sagar
26	Greenshank	13-10-85	Shamirpet
	<u>Tringa nebularia</u>	08-05-86	Fox Sagar
27	Green Sandpiper	18-08-85	Chilkur
	<u>Tringa ochropus</u>	21-04-85	Nehru Zoo
28	Spotted Sandpiper	22-09-85	Nehru Zoo
	<u>Tringa glareola</u>	18-05-86	Fox Sagar
29	Common Sandpiper	22-09-85	Nehru Zoo
	<u>Tringa hypoleucos</u>	11-05-86	Fox Sagar
30	Common Snipe	04-11-84*	Rourial

	<u>Capella galinago</u>	14-04-85	Himayat Sagar
31	<u>Little Stint</u>	13-10-85	Shamirpet
	<u>Calidris minutus</u>	18-05-86	Fox Sagar
*32	<u>Temminck's Stint *</u>	-	-
	<u>Calidris temminckii</u>	05-02-84	Ibrahimpattanam
*33	<u>Dunlin</u>	20-10-85	Fox Sagar
	<u>Calidris alpinus</u>	29-12-85	Fox Sagar
*34	<u>Ruff</u>	16-12-85	Patancheru
	<u>Philomachus pugnax</u>	10-02-85	Manjira
35	<u>Brownheaded Gull</u>	13-10-85	Shamirpet
	<u>Larus brunnicephalus</u>	22-04-84	Osman Sagar
36	<u>Blackheaded Gull</u>	27-10-85	Fox Sagar
	<u>Larus ridibundus</u>	21-04-86	Fox Sagar
*37	<u>Gullbilled Tern</u>	13-10-85	Shamirpet
	<u>Gelochelidon nilotica</u>	27-10-85	Fox Sagar
38	<u>Bluetailed See Eater</u>	30-09-84	Rajendra Nagar
	<u>Merops philippinus</u>	15-04-84	Himayat Sagar
*39	<u>Wryneck *</u>	09-12-84	Patancheru
	<u>Jynx torquilla</u>	-	-
40	<u>Rufous Short-toed Lark</u>	27-10-85	Fox Sagar
	<u>Calandrella cinerea</u>	25-03-84	M H Vanasthali
41	<u>Common Swallow</u>	08-09-85	Rajendra Nagar
	<u>Hirundo rustica</u>	08-05-86	Fox Sagar
42	<u>Brown Shrike</u>	02-09-84	Nehru Zoo
	<u>Lanius cristatus</u>	21-04-85	Nehru Zoo
43	<u>Grey Drongo *</u>	-	-
	<u>Dicrurus leucophaeus</u>	19-02-84	Nehru Zoo
44	<u>Rosy Pastor</u>	09-12-84	Patancheru
	<u>Sturnus roseus</u>	11-05-85	Alwal
*45	<u>Brown Flycatcher</u>	26-08-84	Nehru Zoo
	<u>Muscicapa latirostris</u>	08-04-84	Nehru Zoo
46	<u>Redbreasted Flycatcher</u>	30-10-83*	Nehru Zoo
	<u>Muscicapa parva</u>	08-04-84	Nehru Zoo
47	<u>Great Reed Warbler</u>	30-10-85	Nehru Zoo
	<u>Acrocephalus stentoreus</u>	13-04-86	Sanjivayya Park
48	<u>Blyth's Reed Warbler</u>	01-09-85	Fox Sagar
	<u>Acrocephalus dumetorum</u>	15-04-84	Himayat Sagar
*49	<u>Booted Tree Warbler</u>	11-12-83	Nehru Zoo
	<u>Hippolais caligata</u>	25-03-85	M H Vanasthali
50	<u>Orphean Warbler</u>	-	-
	<u>Sylvia hortensis</u>	11-03-84	M H Vanasthali
51	<u>Lesser Whitethroat</u>	28-10-84*	Rourial

	<u>Sylvia curruca</u>	06-04-86	Shamirpet
*52	Bluethroat	27-11-83	Patancheru
	<u>Erithacus svecicus</u>	12-01-86	Patancheru
53	Black Redstart	25-09-83	Shamirpet
	<u>Phoenicurus ochruros</u>	11-03-84*	MH Vanasthali
*54	Stone Chat	20-10-85	Fox Sagar
	<u>Saxicola torquata</u>	10-03-85	Fox Sagar
*55	Blue Rock Thrush	13-10-85	Shamirpet
	<u>Monticola solitarius</u>	06-01-85	Shamirpet
*56	Tree Pipit	11-11-84	Narsapur
	<u>Anthus trivialis</u>	12-01-86	Patancheru
*57	Richard's Pipit	16-12-84	Patancheru
	<u>Anthus n. richardi</u>	10-02-85	Manjira
*58	Tawny Pipit	20-10-85	Fox Sagar
	<u>Anthus campestris</u>	05-02-84	Ibrahimpattanam
*59	Yellow Wagtail	20-10-85	Fox Sagar
	<u>Motacilla citreola</u>	10-02-85	Manjira
60	Grey Wagtail*	17-09-83	Nehru Zoo
	<u>Motacilla citreola</u>	21-04-85	Himayat Sagar
61	White Wagtail	20-10-85*	Fox Sagar
	<u>Motacilla alba</u>	13-04-86	Sanjivayya Park
62	Greynecked Bunting*	30-12-84	Shamirpet
	<u>Emberiza buehanani</u>	-	-

EXPLANATION

Note:- Wherever the term 'old record' is used below, it refers to an earlier note by the author, published in MAYURA vol 4 nos. 3-4 and vol 5 nos 1 and 2 - from July-September 1983 to April-June 1984. The serial numbers below are followed by numbers within brackets. The latter are the serial numbers of pertinent species in the main table.

1 (1) One inexplicable sighting by Ganesh on 28-07-85 at Fox Sagar. The first date given falls within the parameters set by the old record, which sighting was on 7th November at Palmakole.

2 (4) Both dates given fall within the parameters of the old record in which the first date was 31/10 at Patancheru and the last 6/2 at Miralam Tank.

3 (5) The first date falls within the parameters of

the old record which gives 29/11 as first date at Manjira.

4 (6) The last date falls within the parameters of the old record where the bird was seen on 8/5 at Shamirpet.

5 (10) The first date falls within the parameters of old record which gives 9/11 the first sighting at Shamshabad.

6 (15) The last date of this species is not available.

7 (19) The first date given falls within the parameters of the old record wherein a bird was seen on 5/10 at Chilkur.

8 (23) The first date given falls within the parameters of old record where the date was 29/12 at Manjira.

9 (24) The first date given falls within the parameters of old record wherein the first date was 31/10 at Patancheru.

10 (30) The first date falls within the parameters of the old record wherein the first date is 20/9 at M H Vanasthali.

11 (32) The first date for this species is not available.

12 (39) The last date for this species is not available.

13 (43) The first date for the three wintering seasons recorded is not available. However this date in the old record is 31/10 at Patancheru.

14 (46) The first date given falls within the parameters of the old record wherein the bird was first seen on 16/8 at Nehru Zoo Park.

15 (50) The first date for this species is not available.

16 (51) The first date given falls within the parameter of old record wherein the date is 5/12 at Shamirpet.

17 (53) The last date given falls within the parameters of old record wherein the date is 14/3 at Rajendra Nagar.

18 (60) There is an inexplicable late record of 17-06-84 from Kothapet by Siraj Taher.

19 (61) The first date given is within the parameters of the old record wherein the date is 14/10 from Hyderabad city.

20 (62) The last date is not available. However in the old record this is 13/2 from Shamirpet.

FAMILIES AND NUMBER OF SPECIES REPRESENTED

Family	No of Species
Anatidae	10
Accipitridae	7
Falconidae	2
Charadriidae	15
Laridae	3
Meropidae	1
Picidae	1
Alaudidae	1
Hirundinidae	1
Laniidae	1
Dicruridae	1
Sturnidae	1
Muscicapidae	11
Motacillidae	6
Emberizidae	1
TOTAL 15 FAMILIES AND 62 REPRESENTATIVE SPECIES	

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Pittie, A (1983-84) - Recording of first and last sightings of annual migrants in and around Hyderabad with notes on general distribution. - MAYURA vol 4 nos 3 & 4, vol 5 nos 1 & 2.

Ripley, S D (1982) - A Synopsis of The Birds of India and Pakistan, 2nd edition.

Received: 23-3-1987.

BIRDS OF NAGARJUNASAGAR-SRISAILAM TIGER RESERVE

P. Balkoteshwar Rao, House No. 26, Opp. Bus Stand,
Mehdipatnam, HYDERABAD - 500 028.

130 kms. away from Hyderabad is the village of Mannanur which is located in the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve. Sharath and I were at Mannanur for 2 days in the month of November 1986.

The Tiger Reserve is the largest in the country and occupies an area of 3,568 sq. km. The river Krishna runs through the reserve and is flanked on both sides by steep banks for most of its course. The forest is dry deciduous with Teak, Terminalia, Anogeissus, Chloroxylon, Sterculia, Bassia latifolia and Hardwickia being the main tree species. The Reserve also boasts of a large number of wild animals, such as tiger, panther, sloth bear, wolf, python, mugger, chinkara, chital, m chowsingha, nilgai, langur, etc. While most of these animals are not easy to see during a visit the absence of their sightings is more than made up by the presence of a large number of birds.

The area around the village of Mannanur itself abounds in birds as there are varied habitats in a relatively small area. There are open patches of grass where there are a couple of schools for the people of the village and for tribals around the area. And next come the cultivated lands and then the forest itself. There is also a small rainfed lake which we named "Tiger Trap", for it was here two years ago I saw man attacked by a tiger and on the last trip with Sharath in November 1986 we were told of three people being chased by a tigress with cubs and one of them was left behind by the other two who ran away to the safety of the village. The third was rescued later from a tree by a lorry load of villagers. Anyway it is here that we saw a few water birds.

The road leading to Mannanur is covered on both sides by thick jungle where one can see a lot of birds like

the Green Pigeon Treron phoenicoptera, the Grey Junglefowl Gallus sonneratii and many other birds. If one sits by the roadside and waits one can see as many as twenty different species bringing the forest alive with their movements and their calls, in as many minutes.

There are various places where one can sit and let time fly past engrossed with the birds of the jungle. The forest is pockmarked with clearings which provide ideal places for such observations. It was at one such opening, resting after a long walk that we saw the Tickell's Blue Flycatcher Muscicapa tickelliae and what a sight that was! And the forest is full of such experiences. No words can express our joy when we saw a Red Junglefowl Gallus gallus during one of the forays into the jungle.

Most of the birds in the list below were seen frequently while some showed themselves just once. The 70 odd birds in the list are a result of incidental birdwatching for the purpose of our visit to the Reserve was different. Imagine what the forest would provide for the serious birdwatcher!

The list should be definitely longer than 70 for we ourselves left out a few birds (especially warblers) which we could not identify or those which gave us the briefest of chances to see them. The Field Director of the Reserve was telling us that the complete list of birds of the Reserve is not known and had welcomed the idea of the Birdwatcher's Society of A P doing the job of listing and identifying the birds of the Reserve.

The following is the list of birds seen by us in the Reserve, Mannanur Range, (on the left bank of the river Krishna) on the 28th and 29th of November 1986,

- 1 Little Grebe Podiceps ruficollis
- 2 Little Cormorant Phalacrocorax niger
- 3 Pond Heron Ardeola grayii
- 4 Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis

- 5 Median Egret Egretta intermedia
- 6 Little Egret Egretta garzetta
- 7 Lesser Whistling Teal Dendrocygna javanica
- 8 Blackwinged Kite Elanus caeruleus
- 9 Pariah Kite Milvus migrans
- 10 Shikra Accipiter badius
- 11 White-eyed Buzzard-Eagle Butastur teesa
- 12 Whitebacked Vulture Gyps bengalensis
- 13 Scavenger Vulture Neophron percnopterus
- 14 Short-toed Eagle Circaetus gallicus
- 15 Kestrel Flaco tinnunculus
- 16 Red Junglefowl Gallus gallus
- 17 Grey Junglefowl Gallus sonneratii
- 18 Peafowl Pavo cristatus
- 19 Brownheaded Gull Larus brunnicephalus
- 20 Blackheaded Gull Larus ridibundus
- 21 Green Pigeon Treron phoenicoptera
- 22 Blue Rock Pigeon Columba livia
- 23 Ring Dove Streptopelia decaocto
- 24 Little Brown Dove Streptopelia senegalensis
- 25 Spotted Dove Streptopelia chinensis
- 26 Roseringed Parakeet Psittacula krameri
- 27 Blossomheaded Parakeet Psittacula cyanocephala
- 28 Common Hawk Cuckoo Cuculus varius
- 29 Koel Eudynamys scolopacea
- 30 Crow-Pheasant Centropus sinensis
- 31 House Swift Apus affinis
- 32 Pied Kingfisher Ceryle rudis
- 33 Whitebreasted Kingfisher Halcyon smyrnensis
- 34 Small Green Bee Eater Merops orientalis
- 35 Indian Roller Coracias benghalensis
- 36 Grey Hornbill Tockus birostris
- 37 Crimsonbreasted Barbet Megalaima haemacephala
- 38 Goldenbacked Woodpecker Dinopium benghalense
- 39 Dusky Crag Martin Hirundo colcolor
- 40 Common Swallow Hirundo rustica
- 41 Redrumped Swallow Hirundo daurica
- 42 Grey Shrike Lanius excubitor
- 43 Brown Shrike Lanius cristatus
- 44 Golden Oriole Oriolus oriolus
- 45 Black Drongo Dicrurus adsimilis
- 46 Whitebellied Drongo Dicrurus caeruleus

- 47 Brahminy Myna Sturnus pagodarum
48 Common Myna Acridotheres tristis
49 Tree Pie Dendrocitta vagabunda
50 House Crow Corvus splendens
51 Jungle Crow Corvus macrorhynchos
52 Common Wood Shrike Tephrodornis pondicerianus
53 Blackheaded Cuckoo-Shrike Coracina melanoptera
54 Little Minivet Pericrocotus cinnamomeus
55 Common Iora Aegithina tiphia
56 Goldfronted Chloropsis Chloropsis aurifrons
57 Redvented Bulbul Pycnonotus cafer
58 Whitebrowed Bulbul Pycnonotus luteolus
59 Large Grey Babbler Turdoides malcolmi
60 Whiteheaded Babbler Turdoides affinis
61 Tickell's Blue Flycatcher Muscicapa tickelliae
62 Indian Wren Warbler Prinia subflava
63 Ashy Wren Warbler Prinia socialis
64 Tailor Bird Orthotomus sutorius
65 Magpie Robin Copsychus saularis
66 Pied Bushchat Saxicola coaprata
67 Indian Robin Saxicoloides fulicata
68 Blue Rock Thrush Monticola solitarius
69 Indian Pipit Anthus novaeseelandiae
70 Large Pied Wagtail Motacilla maderaspatensis
71 Tickell's Flowerpecker Dicaeum erythrorhynchos
72 Purplerumped Sunbird Nectarinia zeylonica
73 Purple Sunbird Nectarinia asiatica
74 House Sparrow Passer domesticus
75 Whitethroated Munia Lonchura malabarica
76 Greynecked Bunting Emberiza buchanani

EDITOR'S NOTE:- The known distribution for the Red Junglefowl Gallus gallus is roughly above the Godavari River in Northern Andhra Pradesh.

**VEDURUPATTU - PAINTED STORK MYCTERIA LEUCOCEPHALA
NESTING PLACE**

C Ramakrishna, 20 S N Avenue, Madras - 600 028.

I reached Vedurupattu Tank, Nellore District, (popularly known as Vedurupattu Rajupallem) by a forest road at 2.30 p.m. This is an eye-catching stork heronry. (I do not know if it is a sanctuary). Though the village is 100 kms. north of Madras, and 40 kms. south of Gudur, it has a remote setting without even a bus route or a provision store. It is hardly 10 kms. off N.H. 5, west of Nelapattu Pelican Sanctuary.

And now to what I actually saw in an hours' stay there from 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

From a mile away the Yanadi (a scheduled tribe), M. Munuswamy, I took from Putthur with me, pointed out the birds covering the trees. On my stopping at the village tank I saw more than 50 Painted Storks Mycteria leucocephala feeding among reeds, 4 Pelicans, herons, egrets, etc. I crossed over to the tank bund and on a single Barringtonia tree (Tel. Tandraor Cuddapah) there were about 10 nests. In the village all the trees around hutments were filled with birds and nests. A rough estimate of 20 trees with 10 nests each comes to 200 nests ie., 400 painted storks (Tel. Yerrakolla kongalu).

The nests were mainly on Tamarindus indica (Tel. Chintha chettu), Melia azadirachta (Tel. Vepa Chettu) - 2 trees and on Ficus religiosa (Tel. Ragi Chettu). There were no nests on other trees like Acacia arabica (Tel. Nallathumma), Toddy Palm Borassus flabellifera (Tel. Thati Chettu) and Wild Date Phoenix sylvestris (Tel. Eetha chettu).

This village is on the Kalangi River, across the river is another part of the village called Vedurupattu Agraharam where also birds were nesting. I saw them only from this side of the river.

Grey Pelicans:- (Telugu: Guda Bathu) There were 6 pelicans on one branch with 2 nests on a neem tree.

Spoonbills:- (Tel: Theddumoothi kongu) 3 or 4 nests on the only Ficus religiosa tree along with a grey heron nest.

Grey Heron:- (Tel: Narayana Pakshi) Nests on the above peepal tree. These nests were built much earlier as I saw them nesting on my last visit on 1st Jan. 1986.

General Observations:- I did not notice any other egrets or birds nesting. I was informed by the villagers that a few painted storks flew in around the last week of December 1985, but went away. Again around 16th of Jan 1986 big flocks arrived and started building nests. Many birds flew away due to lack of space. I am not sure of this observation this has to be checked up.

Cyclone of November 1984:- There was heavy damage due to the cyclone and a huge tamarind tree which was the main nesting place has fallen down. It is still lying there. The side branches of most of the trees have broken down, considerably reducing the nesting area.

The nests of all the birds except the night herons have been built around the Sankranthi week (Pongal Jan' 13 upto 17th 1986) and not before. I could observe brooding birds in a number of nests. In some nests the birds were standing with spreadout wings and backs to the setting sun. I was informed that in these nests the chicks had hatched and the birds were giving them shelter. I think this is correct as the chick's calls could be heard. I found a lot of empty shells and a recently dead young chick under the trees. I also noticed a Pale Harrier flying around the tank. About 4 kms. from Vedurupattu, near Pothur village tank I spotted a dozen Indian Coursers Cursorius coromandelicus. I was informed by my village friend that there were plenty of these around. They are called 'Theetayulu', a common telugu name for lapwings and coursers. This country is ideal for coursers,

having stony terrain and scrub jungle along the Kalangi River, in Nellore District. They are so numerous that i understand they are trapped and eaten. I was informed when one is caught the others crowd around it and get trapped also.

Myths:- During my last visit to Nelapattu i was informed that the nestings birds at Vedurupattu provide the villagers with big quantities of guano. But i found that was only a very negligible quantity. I was also informed that the fish dropped by the storks are eaten by the villagers. This is also not true.

Wolf Tracks:- In the tank-bed i noticed clear fresh pug marks about 10 cms. across with impression of two nails in the front. I was informed that there were a few wolves seen in twos. This story was wide spread in all the surrounding villages.

Route:- In rainy season the only jeepable road is to take the Sirisumbedu road on the Naidupet-Kalahasti state highway. (You can walk from close to Doravari Chatram also from NH 5.) It will be about 10 kms. The closest bus stop is Puthur on the Naidupeta - Sirisumbedu bus (or) Kalahasti-Sirisumbedu bus. You can walk from Nelapattu Sanctuary near Doravarichatram on NH 5 it is about 10 kms.

Conclusion:- A most wonderful place for bird-watching and photography. I have never seen birds so close and friendly. I have not seen these birds in any other tanks in the whole of this district except in the Pulicat Lake. I understand from the villagers that after the Nov. '84 cyclone no officers of forest dept. had visited this place. The birds are well protected by the villagers.

Received: 19-3-1986.

**BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE MAIZE RESEARCH STATION, AMBERPET,
HYDERABAD.**

Dr S Tej Kumar, 'Srinivasa', 1-2-365 20/C, Domalguda,
Hyderabad - 500 029.

Maize Research Station of A. P. Agricultural University, conducting research on Maize crop is neatly tucked away on the outskirts of Hyderabad city towards east, from hustle-bustle of city life by just 2-3 kms. Situated adjacent to the river Musi, it attracts more than 50 species of birds. Proximity of the river brings in cattle and little egrets to the farm with them changing plumage during breeding season. Blackwinged stilts, common and wood sandpipers are more common in and around Musi, seen in plenty fishing leisurely. Ducks of all varieties are surprisingly conspicuous by their absence. Last year a lonely pair of whitenecked storks had arrived which lingered along for a long time. Unfortunately one fell to the hungry bullets of a shikari making another a lone ranger pining away for its mate. Redwattled lapwings, 10-15 pairs are seen making a lot of noise and hovering down to ploughed and undisturbed fields showing intolerance to human presence.

Telephone wires have become perching places to common blue, pied and whitebreasted kingfishers, and wiretailed swallows, common swallows, small green bee-eaters, indian rollers and occasionally for black drongos and brahminy mynas. This station does not attract rosy pastors which are seen in Vanasthalipuram, not far away. Black drongos are also seen in fields busy picking insects along with egrets at the time of ploughing with tractors.

Sky was observed dotted with pariah kites which are seen in large numbers hovering over Musi to get a frequent dip for fish. Occasionally blackwinged kite, shikra and whitebacked vultures and singing bushlarks, ashy swallow-shrikes and palm swifts are observed.

In maize field indian pipits and yellow wagtails are seen busy picking up insects from emerging out of freshly irrigated fields. Blue rock pigeons are seen picking up seeds sown in fields especially in mornings or late evenings. As crop grows, old munias either brownheaded, spotted, whitetailed, or house sparrows and common mynas all are observed to be busy picking seeds from cobs.

Nearby bushes attract grey shrike, baybacked and rufousbaked shrikes, ashy wren-warbler, indian warbler, little brown dove, pied crested cuckoo, jungle babbler, indian robin, pied bushchat, not to mention occassionally crow pheasant and hoopoe.

Due to sparce tree growth on the farm, not many arboreal birds are seen. but a few observed need mention, which are redvented bulbul, common iora, and golden oriole. Bayas are more commonly seen busy chattering, changing plumage and flying from tree to tree though their nest building activity is rarely seen in the vicinity. A dilapidated farm structure nearby becomes a home for a lonely spotted owlet.

As maize crop is grown throughout the research station, at harvest time large number of roseringed parakeets, house crows and munias are attracted to the crop from places around, all busy feeding on maize cobs, unmindful of the damage they cause to the crop.

Among other fauna worth mentioning is the abundance of crimson and orange-tip butterflies, varied species of pansies and other pierid butterflies which happily breed here, thus making this place a feast to watch, so all are welcome to come and watch them here.

Received: 17-10-1987.

LIST OF BIRDS SEEN AT TADA (PULICAT) LAKE SANCTUARY & NELAPATTU SANCTUARY, A. P., ON 28 NOV. AND 20-21 DEC. 1983 BY THE B.N.H.S. PROJECT SCIENTIST OF THEIR ANIFAUNA PROJECT, MR S A HUSSAIN.

Mr M Krishnan, Chairman, Expert Group on Tada Lake Sanctuary, A.P.

52 Dr Radhakrishna Salai, MADRAS - 18.

NOTE:- In view of his vast experience and knowledge of waders, water-birds and shorebirds, i had requested Mr S A Hussain of the Bombay Natural History Society to accompany the members of the Expert Group on the Tada lake sanctuary who visited the sanctuary on the dates specified above. He has now provided the list of the birds seen by him on these dates at the SHAR centre (28 Nov) and at Tada Lake and Nelapattu. During the trip in December also we were unable to enter the proposed core area of Tada Lake or to get close enough to the shore of peripheral islands and spits to observe their birdlife. Because of this, and because of Mr Hussain's observation being virtually limited to 2 days in the buffer zone of the sanctuary and a few hours at Nelapattu, his list is only a purely factual one and partial : many additions to it must be made to include all the main indigenous and migratory birds, and a part of these additions can now be made by other members of the Expert Group (such as Shri Pushp Kumar and myself) who have some past records of birds seen at Tada, and by future observations. In view of Tada being a major sojourn centre of migrants, such a list can never be considered complete and additions may have to be made over many years.

- 1 Little Grebe Podiceps ruficollis
- 2 Grey Pelican Pelecanus philippensis
- 3 Indian Shag Phalacrocorax fuscicollis
- 4 Little Cormorant Phalacrocorax niger
- 5 Grey Heron Ardea cinerea
- 6 Pond Heron Ardeola grayii
- 7 Large Egret Ardea alba new name for Egretta alba
- 8 Median Egret Egretta intermedia

- 9 Little Egret Egretta garzeta
10 Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax
11 Painted Stork Mycteria leucocephala new name for
Ibis leucocephala
12 Openbilled Stork Anastomus oscitans
13 White Ibis Threskiornis melanocephala
14 Spoonbill Platalea leucorodia
15 Flamingo Phoenicopterus rosseus
16 Barheaded Goose Anser indicus
17 Brahminy Duck Tadorna ferruginea
18 Pintail Anas acuta
19 Common Teal Anas crecca
20 Spotbill Duck Anas poecilorhyncha
21 Gadwall Anas strepera
22 Wigeon Anas penelope
23 Garganey Anas querquedula
24 Shoveller Anas clypeata
25 Common Pochard Aythya ferina
26 Blackwinged Kite Elanus caeruleus
27 Pariah (Black) Kite Milvus migrans
28 Brahminy Kite Haliastur indus
29 Whitebellied Sea Eagle Haliaeetus leucogaster
30 Pale Harrier Circus macrourus
31 Montagu's Harrier Circus pygargus
32 Kestrel Falco tinnunculus
33 Grey Partridge Francolinus pondicerianus
34 Jungle Bush Quail Perdica asiatica
35 Whitebreasted Waterhen Amaurornis phoenicurus
36 Redwattled Lapwing Vanellus indicus
37 Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus
38 Curlew Numenius arquata
39 Blacktailed Godwit Limosa limosa
40 Ruff Philomachus pugnax
41 Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus
42 Common Redshank Tringa totanus
43 Marsh Sandpiper Tringa stagnatilis
44 Greenshank Tringa nebularia
45 Common Sandpiper Tringa hypoleucos
46 Little Stint Calidris minutus
47 Blackwinged Stilt Himantopus himantopus
48 Brownheaded Gull Larus brunnicephalus
49 Blackheaded Gull Larus ridibundus
-

- 50 Herring Gull Larus argentatus
51 Whiskered Tern Chlidonias hybrida
52 Gullbilled Tern Gelochelidon nilotica
53 Caspian Tern Hydroprogne caspia
54 Little Tern Sterna albifrons
55 Spotted Dove Streptopelia chinensis
56 Roseringed Parakeet Psittacula krameri
57 Lesser Pied Kingfisher Ceryle rudis
58 Common Kingfisher Alcedo atthis
59 Whitebreasted Kingfisher Halcyon smyrnensis
60 Green Bee Eater Merops orientalis
61 Indian Roller Coracias benghalensis
62 Hoopoe Upupa epops
63 Eastern Skylark Alauda gulqula
64 Swallow Hirundo rustica
65 Wiretailed Swallow Hirundo smithii
66 House Martin Delichon urbica
67 Ashy Swallow-Shrike Artamus fuscus
68 Common Myna Acridotheres tristis
69 House Crow Corvus splendens
70 Jungle Crow Corvus macrorhynchos
71 Pipit Anthus sp.

NOTE: In the above list by Mr S A Hussain, since it is a factual record of all birds actually seen, some common land birds seen at SHAR centre on 28 November, and at Nelapattu, are included, such as the crows and the common myna and the hoopoe. He gives the estimated population of greater flamingos at 3,000 +. Other birds seen in great numbers were painted storks, pelicans (grey), terns (oddly enough, gulls were not there in the usual numbers on these days) and ducks (especially pintail).

Received: 10-01-1984.

BIRDING AT KOLLAPUR, MAHBUBNAGAR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH.

P. Kanniah, 128 Balaji Colony, Kakaguda, Secunderabad - 500 015.

T. Ganesh, 16/112 Sainagar Colony, Trimulgherry, Secunderabad - 500 012.

On 8th March '86, Shiv Kumar, Balu, Rajesh and ourselves made a short visit to Kollapur in Mahbubnagar district. Lying close to river Krishna and midway between Srisaillam and Kurnool, Kollapur is nicely surrounded by low hills of the Nallamalai ranges. The town in recent times, has attracted quite a few people interested in temple architecture. This is because of a unique stone by stone reinstalation of temples here that were submerged due to the Srisaillam dam. Some of us took keen interest in photographing these.

The river Krishna flows some 9 kms from Kollapur at a place called Somasila. Before damming it at Srisaillam, the river was supposed to have been a small one, winding its way through the hills. Once the dam rose, the water level also rose all along its gorge like course for 70 kms and more. Somasila, a small village, located much lower than what it is today, was submerged by the rising water along with many other villages, temples and forests. The river now sports a broad navigable look with stumps of dead trees sprouting out of water. It is wide at some places and narrow at others. The banks are mostly littered with loose stones with hardly any vegetation around. Few waders were in sight, no ducks or teals anywhere, but we were happy in sighting a pair of Great Stone Plovers Esacus magnirostris.

The way from Kollapur to Somasila winds through hills and valleys. At one spot a lush, verdant spring was a refreshing sight amidst the dry, dusty hot brown hills. Some flycatchers, wagtails, bulbuls and a waterhen sought refuge here.

Going uphill was great fun for us. It brought us closer to the soil and vegetation of the slopes which looked so devastated from far. Slopes closer to town were cultivated during the rains with castor and other crops. The fields unlike any other were full of loose reddish stones. On other slopes a crop of thin forests and scrub managed to survive. Yet, from what we saw this may not last long. Head-loads of fuel wood constantly passed us to the town, where trees grew better, saw carts moving in specially made tracks to carry the trunks away. That constant sound of axe on wood was far more clear and crisp than any bird call. Clearing with no thought of regeneration and aided by poor rainfall and extreme heat, we fear will make the hills quite barren soon. Going uphill will then be possible only under a cool moonlight.

Kollapur did not have any lodge but an inspection bungalow is there. We were lucky, for the local panchayat gave us accommodation and even transport to Somasila and back. A lot of thanks to them.

LIST OF BIRDS SEEN AROUND KOLLAPUR ON 8TH & 9TH MARCH
1986

-
- 1 Little Egret Egretta garzetta
 - 2 Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis
 - 3 Pond Heron Ardeola grayii
 - 4 Longbilled Vulture Gyps indicus
 - 5 Whitebacked Vulture Gyps bengalensis
 - 6 Pariah Kite Milvus migrans
 - 7 Brahminy Kite Haliastur indus
 - 8 Short-toed Eagle Circaetus gallicus
 - 9 Shikra Accipiter badius
 - 10 Quail sp. ?
 - 11 Great Stone Plover Esacus magirostris
 - 12 Redwattled Lapwing Vanellus indicus
 - 13 Spotted Sandpiper Tringa glareola
 - 14 Whitebreasted Waterhen Amaurornis phoenicurus
 - 15 Ring Dove Streptopelia decaocto
 - 16 Little Brown Dove Streptopelia senegalensis
-

- 17 Roseringed Parakeet Psittacula krameri
18 House Crow Corvus splendens
19 Koel Eudynamys scolopacea
20 Small Greenbilled Malkoha Rhopodytes viridirostris
21 Palm Swift Cypsiurus parvus
22 Whitebreasted Kingfisher Halcyon smyrnensis
23 Small Green Bee Eater Merops orientalis
24 Indian Roller Coracias benghalensis
25 Goldenbacked Woodpecker Dinopium benghalense
26 Ashycrowned Finch-Lark Eremopterix grisea
27 Redwinged Bush Lark Mirafra erythroptera
28 Common Swallow Hirundo rustica
29 Redrumped Swallow Hirundo daurica
30 Rufousbacked Shrike Lanius schach
31 Baybacked Shrike Lanius vittatus
32 Brown Shrike Lanius cristatus
33 Greybacked Shrike Lanius lahtora
34 Golden Oriole Oriolus oriolus
35 Black Drongo Dicrurus adsimilis
36 Common Myna Acridotheres tristis
37 Brahminy Myna Sturnus pagodarum
38 Indian Tree Pie Dendrocitta vagabunda
39 Large Cuckoo-Shrike Coracina novaehollandiae
40 Little Minivet Pericrocotus cinnamomeus
41 Redvented Bulbul Pycnonotus cafer
42 Whitebrowed Bulbul Pycnonotus luteolus
43 Yelloweyed Babbler Chrysomma sinense
44 Jungle Babbler Turdoides striatus
45 Whitespotted Fantail Flycatcher Rhipidura albicollis
46 Tailor Bird Orthotomus sutorius
47 Indian Wren-Warbler Prinia subflava
48 Blyth's Reed Warbler Acrocephalus dumetorum ?
49 Pied Bushchat Saxicola caprata
50 Indian Robin Saxicoloides fulicata
51 Magpie Robin Copsychus saularis
52 Large Pied Wagtail Motacilla maderaspatensis
53 Purple Sunbird Nectarinia asiatica
54 House Sparrow Passer domesticus
55 Yellowthroated Sparrow Petronia xanthocollis

Received: 23-4-1987.

BIRDWATCHING AT FOX SAGAR

D K Mohan, 165 6th Road, Vayupuri, Sainikpuri P O,
SECUNDERABAD - 500 594.

Date: 18-11-1985. Time: 12.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Other Participants: T Ganesh.

HABITAT: Fox Sagar is a small tank about 5 kms. from Alwal. A mud track to the left, off the Hyderabad-Nagpur Highway at Jeedimetla, takes us to this tank. Once a deep and huge tank, it is now a skeleton of its former self, being c. 5 feet at the deepest. It thus attracts in addition to an army of fishermen, a multitude of birds, mainly waders. There are a few rocks jutting out of the water and absolutely no sign of greenery (except grass) anywhere near the tank.

It was a cycling trip and on the way we saw birds of prey, too high for us to identify with surity. On the telephone wire we saw Indian Rollers, Rufousbacked Shrikes, Common Mynas. A female harrier gave us a very good sight as it passed low overhead. We also saw a chiffchaff there and there were a few redrumped swallows, common swallows, palm swifts and ashy swallow-shrikes, little brown doves, spotted doves and drongos. In the distance a number of indian whitebacked vultures were descending upon a carcass. A white wagtail flew off after a hurried wag. A shikra was lazily spiralling in the sky. on a bush the whiteheaded babblers were noisily conferring while a tailor bird hopped nervously about.

In the lake we saw many blackwinged stilts. An interesting observation by Ganesh was; an injured blackwinged stilt was kept far off from the main flock. This is true in many other species too. Egrets, little and cattle, were common. So were brahminy kites, pariah kites, little stints and dunlins. Here and there solitary green, spotted and common sandpipers were seen. There were the usual whiskered terns and

the indian river terns. But also were present 3 blackbellied terns. A gull which could be the immature blackheaded gull or the immature lesser blackbacked gull was seen. Kestrels, female harriers, little ringed plovers, ashycrowned finch-larks, redwattled lapwings, dominated the shore. Occasionally a pipit put in an appearance. Just before leaving ie., a little before sunset a pair of ruddy shelduck landed on the water. We noticed aggressive behaviour between two little egrets. Two grey herons flew back to roost. Pied and grey wagtails were spotted on the track ahead of us.

On the way back we witnessed the roosting of nearly 40 harriers, male and female of the marsh, pale and montagu's species. It was on the grassy slopes of a dairy farm nearby Jeedimetla, about 4 kms. from Fox Sagar. A lot of female bluethroats were perched on the wires. By now the sun had set. We turned back towards home tired and satisfied. The sight of those harriers (with increasing numbers still coming in even after we left) landing, silhouetted against the red sky on the grassy hill slopes is a very memorable and beautiful picture on our minds even today.

Received: 12-12-1985.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

OCCURRENCE OF THE BLACK STORK CICONIA NIGRA NEAR HYDERABAD

April 5th 1987 will long be green in our memories. On this day we paid a morning visit to a scrubland with an outcrop of rocky hills near a place called Kowkoor close to Bolarum. An old dargah is a very good landmark to this place before which the rocky hills rise at about a kilometre distance. After cycling for about 45 minutes we were amidst the boulders and scrub by 7.30 a.m. Leaving the bikes near a bush we moved into the scrub on foot.

This place was once very remote and rarely one encountered any people here. But now all that has changed. Boulders are now blasted away, brick kilns on low lying areas are smoking ominously and lorries are pioneering new routes through the scrub. We were climbing one of these badly mauled hills when we saw a black bird about the size of a large stork standing on a boulder far to our right. Between us were a stretch of cultivable land ending in a marshy pond further down. Looking through binoculars we could see a red bill and equally red legs. Other parts being totally black. We were now sure that it was a stork but what stork was the question. Our small book of Indian Birds did not give any clue for its identification. It did not resemble in any way the painted and openbilled storks but posture-wise, the whitenecked stork came nearer to it, especially when the whitenecked stands with its belly parallel to the ground. To have a closer look we hurried through the scrub keeping an eye on it all the time. Now from our closest hide out we could see clearly its complete left side. The sun was falling directly on it and we saw a white patch on its flanks. This was the only white colour on its body, its underparts were hidden by its own shadow. Having made a rough sketch we moved away without disturbing our precious visitor. Shortly later as if luck was down our lane we saw the bird rise behind us and fly up gently. Making an arc it moved over our head when its underparts became very clear. Lower breast down to tail end was white. Outer tail feathers were black and so were the wings. It was getting hot by then (9.30 a.m.) and the bird was sailing over the place looking for right thermal source to gain height. When we reached our bikes the bird was well above and moving effortlessly to the north back to the breeding grounds?

A few days later we looked up in the Collins' book of birds of Britain and Europe, where we got its name. The illustration of Black Stork tallied with our sketch closely. Later we also checked with Handbook vol 1 and

became certain that what we saw was none other than the BLACK STORK Ciconia nigra

P Kanniah & T Ganesh, 128 Balaji Colony, Kakaguda, Secunderabad - 500 015.

EDITOR'S NOTE:- Another member, Suhail Quader, has also reported sighting a stork fitting the description of the black stork at Durug Tank near Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad District around Jan-Feb 1987.

PARIAH KITE MILVUS MIGRANS CHASING HOUSE CROWS
CORVUS SPLENDENS

Most of us are familiar with the sight of a Pariah Kite Milvus migrans being chased through the air by two or three House Crows Corvus splendens. The kites always seem to be in a great hurry to get away from their tormentors as fast as possible.

It happened however that one particular kite got tired of being chased. It decided to do some chasing itself. When this did happen, i was to be a witness to this act of revenge. The crows fell right into the old kite's trap.

This event took place one day when i was on my way to school. The bus broke down and while the driver was tinkering with the engine, i got down to stretch my legs. A kite sat preening itself on an old wall and three crows were approaching. I was ready for the usual business of the kite going away in a hurry pursued by the crows. I was soon deceived and so were the crows. The black tormentors were in for a shock.

The crows began to tease the hite. The kite retaliated but the crows persisted. The kite put an end to this by suddenly soaring up and pecking left and right. It showed its talons and the crows fled squacking in fright. The old kite was most amused and so was i. It returned to its perch unperturbed and went back to

preening its plumage.

The kite remained on its perch until our bus started with its usual clatter. The bird then took off and much to my amusement every crow in the vicinity began to squawk in alarm. The kite did not mind and neither did I, mainly because I was now back on the bus. I must say that I was positively sorry that, instead of a camera, I had a school bag in my hand. I might have got a most amusing picture.

Humayun Taher, 6-3-249/3, Road No 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad- 12.

**CAPTURE OF CINEREOUS VULTURE AEGYPIUS MONACHUS IN
KARIMNAGAR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH**

On 12th February 1986, a vulture was sent to Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad by the Divisional Forest Officer, Karimnagar, reportedly caught somewhere close to the town of Karimnagar (18°30'N & 79°10'E). It was not one of the five reported vultures found in Andhra Pradesh (see MAYURA 4/2: Birds of Andhra Pradesh : 9 : Vultures: by Pushp Kumar). After considerable confusion, argument, checking and rechecking it was identified as a juvenile Cinereous Vulture Aegyptius monachus, being paler and browner than the described adult character. It had no injuries but was not able to fly and looked rather weak and dazed. It was immediately kept in the quarantine area of the zoo and attempts to feed with minced meat and vitamin supplement were initiated.

The Cinereous Vulture is a resident of the high mountains of Baluchistan and Pakistan. In India the species is known to be a "rare and sparse" winter visitor to Sind, North and Northwestern India, Kutch, North Gujarat and Central India. In south it is reported upto 21°N latitude (Ali & Ripley 1983).

The species has also been reported to breed in North

Cachar hills of Assam (ibid) and Choudhury (1986) reported capturing of a specimen in Darang district of Assam in November 1981.

The capture of a specimen in Karimnagar district in Andhra Pradesh is the first record in the state and perhaps extends its distributional limits further south down to 18°N. The specimen has been photographed and anyone interested can have a color slide of it from the author.

References:

- Ali, S & Ripley, S D (1983): The Handbook of Birds of India and Pakistan. Compact Edition. Oxford University Press. New Delhi.
Choudhury, A (1986): Occurrence of Cinereous Vulture in lower altitudes in Assam (India). Tiger Paper 13/2.
Kumar, Pushp (1983): Survey of Birds of Andhra Pradesh - 9, Vultures. Mayura 4/2/3-5.

B C Choudhury, Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad-500 264.
(present address: C/o The Director, Wildlife Institute of India, New Forest, Dehra Dun, U. P.)

EDITOR'S NOTE:- The specimen is still alive at the Nehru Zoological Park and has developed its adult plumage.

ON SIGHTINGS OF DEMOISELLE CRANES ANTHROPOIDES VIRGO IN MEDAK DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH

In January 1987, I set up my field station at Sangareddy in Medak district to carry out research monitoring of the reintroduced mugger crocodiles in Manjira Wildlife Sanctuary. The reservoir waterspread between Manjira barrage and Singur dam 28 kms. upstream provides excellent habitat for migrant waterfowl. The waterspread is full of aquatic vegetation, typha reeds and ipomea fringing the shoreline. Some 51 species of

birds have already been recorded by the members of the BSAP during their annual field trips to the sanctuary (see MAYURA 3/3-4 & 5/1).

In the course of my field work, in the third week of January, I found a large flock of Demoiselle Cranes Anthropoides virgo flying overhead near Chokrial village some 3 km. upstream of Manjira barrage. The estimated number was around 1000 birds.

On 13th February around 1600 hrs. I counted over 1,500 demoiselle cranes near the Singur dam on the river bank and islands close to Dabba vagu and Manjira river confluence.

Between 22nd and 26th February, during the course of my field visits above Singur barrage, I counted above 8,000 demoiselle cranes in groups of above 500 and 1,000 in batches upto 11 km. upstream of Singur dam. During this time I also counted more than 500 Barheaded Geese Anser indicus.

On 5th March their numbers had gone down to about 2,000 and by 9th March there were only about 200 of them left. A week later not one demoiselle crane nor barheaded goose could be seen in the entire stretch of Manjira reservoir or Singur waterspread.

The demoiselle cranes are reported to be winter visitors to down south upto Mysore, the earliest date of arrival to Mysore being 20th December and the latest departure being 5th March. The last date of sighting of them in Manjira (9/3) confirms to this time. A systematic check on their arrival and departure from Manjira is being kept during the winter of 1987-88.

Reference:

Ali, S & Ripley, S D (1983): The Handbook of Birds of India and Pakistan. Compact Edition. Oxford University Press. New Delhi.

of light entering it is much reduced, especially if it is inside a building.

On 10-8-1986, when the BSAP went on a field trip to the Qutub Shahi Tombs area, a nest of the dusky crag martin was observed, under a cornice on the outer wall of a small ruin. There were 3 young inside the nest, all facing out, over the rim. As I watched, an adult came to the nest and all the young gave a gape display for food. The inside of their mouth was yellow, with white rimmed bills!

Aasheesh Pittie, 14-7-370 Begum Bazar, Hyderabad-500012

SIGHT RECORD OF STARLING STURNUS VULGARIS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

According to Ali & Ripley (1983) the winter distribution of Starling Sturnus vulgaris is Pakistan and north India east to Bangladesh, south to Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Vagrants and stragglers are liable to be met in far-flung localities, thus two were recorded from Madras (Whistler, quoted by Ali & Ripley, 1972). On 10/12/1985, at 1715 hrs. outside the 800 hectare grassland plot, maintained for the Great Indian Bustard Ardeotis nigricaps near Rollapadu village (15 52' N and 78 18' E), Nandikotkur taluk, Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, a flock of eight starlings was seen along with 8-10 Rosy Pastors Sturnus roseus. Soon the two species flew off in different directions. The rosy pastors settled in another field but the starlings were lost sight of. Though the rosy pastors were seen throughout the period of my stay at Rollapadu (10 days), starlings were not seen again.

References:-

- Ali, S & Ripley, S D (1972): Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan. Vol. 5. Oxford University Press. Bombay.
Ibid (1983): A Pictorial Guide to the Birds of the

Indian Subcontinent. BNHS. Bombay.

Asad R Rahmani, Bombay Natural History Society,
Hornbill House, Shahid Bhagat Singh Raod, Bombay - 23.

VARIATIONS IN THE NESTING PERIODS OF THE MAGPIE ROBIN
COPSYCHUS SAULARIS

While going through the old volumes of MAYURA, I discovered an article entitled "Study on Magpie Robins" by M Kamal Naidu in MAYURA Vol 1 No 3-4 Page 16. In his article Mr Kamal Naidu has recorded his observations on the nesting of Magpie Robins Copsychus saularis from 19th January to 11th February 1980.

In my own house a pair of magpie robins have been nesting from:

19th May to 30th June	-	1984
24th May to 15th July	-	1985
- to 11th June - 1st nesting	-	1986
22nd June to 23rd July - 2nd nesting	-	1986

It could be that the nesting period of these birds varies locally. To confirm this I looked up Salim Ali's "Book of Indian Birds" (11th edition 1979). The nesting period for India has been given as "April to July - earlier in the South." The Handbook vol. 8 (1983) states "Overall February to August, mostly March to July with some local variation March-April (N. E. Andhra).

This local variation in nesting period of the magpie robins may be due to availability (or non-availability) of food and nesting material. These birds have been found nesting in Jan.-Feb., while the books do not mention this period for the Hyderabad city and its environs.

However it is interesting to note that there is so much variation in the nesting periods of magpie robins

within Hyderabad city. The author welcomes more references of nesting dates of magpie robins from within Hyderabad city.

Humayun Taher, 6-3-249/3, Road No 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500 034.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK:-

SOCIETY NEWS : 1986:- During the year 1986, the Society conducted 20 field trips and 14 indoor meetings. The members visited the following places for their field trips.

JANUARY - ICRISAT, Patancheru and Ananthagiri.

FEBRUARY - Zoo and Manjira.

MARCH - Indira Park and Mahavir Harin Vanasthali.

APRIL - Sanjivayya Park.

MAY - Nehru Zoo Park.

JUNE - Chilkur and Himayat Sagar.

JULY - -.

AUGUST - Golconda Tombs.

SEPTEMBER - Rajendra Nagar forest nursery and Zoo.

OCTOBER - Shamirpet and Mahavir Harin Vanasthali.

NOVEMBER - Inkriyal and Fox Sagar (Jeedimetla).

DECEMBER - Narsapur and Ibrahimpatam.

For the indoor meetings the usual programme was either a film show by the A.P. Forest Department or a slide show by one of the members. Some of the speakers who addressed the gatherings were:-

* Aasheesh Pittie (member) - Experiences in the Andaman Islands; their fauna, flora and people (an illustrated talk).

* Dr J M and Mrs Mary Peacock (members) - quiz on birds.

* K C Ramakrishnan (member) - A trip to the Antartica - observations and experiences.

* Humayun Taher (member) - nesting of Magpie Robin at Banjara Hills - notes from the field diary.

* T Ganesh (member) - Birding at Fox Sagar, Jeedimetla.

* P Kanniah (member) - A visit to Nalsarovar Lake, Gujarat.

* The Society conducted a very interesting and successful nature camp for its members for 3 days from 28 to 30 November 1986 at Narsapur forests. The

activities included birding, mist-netting (no bird was trapped), talks and hints on nature photography (courtesy O C Edwards and D L N Rau), slide show by B C Choudhury, nature walks and birdwatching. On the last day of the camp a very impressive meeting was held at which the Addl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Mr Pushp Kumar presided. Very interesting talks on the forest flora and fauna and its relationship with the flora were also given by two speakers from the A.P. Forest Department.

* Dr J M and Mrs Mary Peacock very ably conducted a quiz on birds for the members. This was a very exciting and informative programme. The Peacocks also donated prizes to the winners.

* The re-discovery of the Jerdon's Courser on 14th January 1986 near Vantimitla in the Lankamalai ranges of Cuddapah District of A.P. was the most notable event of the year. For more details see the note on page 1 of this issue.

* The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 21st July 1986 at the committee room of the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Saifabad, at 6.30 p.m. The Hon. Secretary's report and statement of accounts have already appeared in Mayura Vol. 6 nos. 1-4. The new Executive Committee elected for 1986 and 1987 is as follows.

PRESIDENT - Pushp Kumar
VICE PRESIDENTS - S Ashok Kumar
 A A Aziz
HON. SECRETARY - Siraj A Taher
JT. SECRETARY - Rajeev Mathew
HON. TREASURER - M S Kulkarni
MEMBERS - Mrs Malini Ramanathan
 Aasheesh Pittie
 B C Choudhury
 P Balakoteshwar Rao
 C Bhaskara Rao

Aasheesh Pittie and P Balakoteshwar Rao were then nominated to form the Editorial Board for the Society's publications.

SOCIETY NEWS : 1987:- There were 18 field trips and 12 indoor meetings during the year. For the field trips the following places were visited.

JANUARY - Ravirala, ICRISAT and Patancheru.

FEBRUARY - Golconda Tombs, Manjira and Singur.

MARCH - Hyderabad University and Mahavir Harin Vanasthali.

APRIL - Sanjivayya Park.

JUNE - Chilkur and Himayat Sagar.

JULY - Nehru Zoo Park.

AUGUST - Mudmial kancha.

SEPTEMBER - Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University.

OCTOBER - Shamirpet and Fox Sagar.

NOVEMBER - Narsapur.

DECEMBER - Ibrahimpotam and Inkriyal.

At most of the indoor meetings, talks or slide shows were given by members. This was in accordance with an informal decision taken by the Society that members should be encouraged to relate their experiences and also to address the members on some topic of birds or birdwatching. Some of the programmes were.

* Dr J M Peacock (member) - trip to Mannanur and Srisaillam Forest Areas (with a slide show).

* Rajeev Mathew (member) - Identifying raptors. a) Aquilas b) falcons (illustrated).

* P. Balu (member) - bird migration (illustrated).

* H R Vidyashankar (member) - trekking in the Himalayas.

* Bharat Bhushan (member) - Jerdon's Courser and its habitat (with a slide show).

* Dr. Salim Ali, passed away on 20th June 1987 in Bombay. He had been ailing for sometime, but was active till the very last. His involvement with birds was exemplary for one and all and if any one man

was responsible for the spread of knowledge and interest in birds, it was Dr. Ali. A condolence meeting was held on 22.6.1987 and a resolution passed. This was conveyed to the BNHS and Mr Humayun Abdulali.

* The annual camp of the Society was organised at the Chilkur Deer Park for 3 days in June 1987. Nine members attended the camp where the regular activities like trekking, birdwatching, trips for nocturnal birds and animals and photography.

* The International Wetland and Waterfowl Research Bureau, Slimbridge, U.K. conducted the first Asian Midwinter Waterfowl Census in January 1987. The national coordinators for India were Mr S A Hussain of BNHS and Mr Prakash Gole of Pune. Ten members from our Society took part on 11th and 18th January. Being the first such activity, it needed to be better organised and coordinated than what could be managed. Nevertheless, 10 waterbodies were covered and the birds counted. The completed reports were sent to BNHS for onward transmission to IWRB, UK. A total of nearly 20,000 waterfowl were recorded at the waterbodies covered by our members. A more detailed report on this will appear in the next issue of the Mayura.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

Contributors of scientific articles / miscellaneous notes are requested to assist the editors by observing the following instructions:

1. Papers which have at the same time been offered for publication to other journals or periodicals, or have already been published elsewhere, should not be submitted.
2. Papers/articles pertaining to ornithology in Andhra Pradesh state or to bird species found in Andhra Pradesh state only, will be accepted.
3. The manuscript should be preferably typed (double spacing) on one side of a sheet only, binding sheets properly numbered.
4. All common names of birds, mammals, etc., should be followed by the scientific name the first time they are mentioned in the text. The scientific names should be underlined.
5. Trinomials referring to subspecies should only be used where identification has been authentically established by comparisons of specimens actually collected.
6. Photographs for reproduction must be clear and show good contrast. Prints must be postcard sized and on glossy glazed paper.
7. Text figures, line drawings and maps should be in Indian Ink.
8. Reference to literature should be placed at the end of the paper, alphabetically arranged under the author's name, with the abridged titles of journals or periodicals underlined and titles of books not underlined, thus:

Choudhury, B.C. (1984): Habitat Survey Project of BSAP - a preliminary report. Mayura 5(4): 80-89.

Ali S. (1977): The Book of Indian Birds. Bombay.
9. Reference to literature in the text should be made by quoting the author's name and year of publication, thus: (Choudhury 1984).
10. The editors reserve the right, other things being equal, to publish a member's contribution earlier than a non-member's.

